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## Currents, Vol.7, No.10 (Feb.27, 1989)

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# CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 7, Number 10

February 27, 1989

## Celebrating Women

USM will again this year celebrate the contribution women have made to our society with a weeklong series of events during March, Women's History Month.

President Plante is one of the featured speakers during the week, and faculty members from a variety of disciplines will lecture on women activists and pioneers. Yvonne Shafer, associate professor of theatre, begins the series with a talk on Susan Glaspell, a contemporary of Eugene O'Neill who achieved popular success as an actress and playwright and won the Pulitzer Prize for her play "Alison's House" but was later overshadowed by O'Neill. Shafer has written four books and over 50 articles for theatre journals and has lectured in China and West Germany. Shafer's lecture on "Susan Glaspell: Revolutionary Playwright" will be given at 4 p.m. on Monday, March 6 in Room B of the Portland Campus Center.

There will be three presentations on Tuesday, March 7. President Plante will speak on "Women in Leadership" at 4 p.m. in the Portland Campus Center, Room B. At 10 a.m., Charlotte Rosenthal, assistant professor of Russian, will give a lecture on "Russian Women Writers: Why You Haven't Heard of Them" in 310 Luther Bonney on the Portland campus. Rosenthal explains that there are several reasons why women writers in Russia have been overlooked although they may have drawn contemporary audiences. She attributes their neglect to sexism, politics and the untraditional genres in which many women wrote. The Russian canon of literature has emphasized large sweeping novels and discouraged poetry and the "domestic" novel of manners and relationships, Rosenthal observes. Nancy

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## A Sporting Bet

### USM Stages an Unusual 'Wager'

In a departure from usual interpretations, the Russell Square Players will open an offbeat, innovative version of Mark Medoff's "The Wager" on Friday, March 10.



Erhun photo

This early piece by Medoff, best known for his Tony-winning play "Children of a Lesser God," revolves around a bet made by two young men, graduate students at a California university. Leeds, played by theatre student Sean Casement, of Dixmont, is a brilliant but cynical intellectual and his roommate Ward, played by junior Mike Dow of Cumberland, is a "jock" and ladies man. The bet concerns Ward's ability to seduce Honor, a young woman who lives next door and is married to a microbiologist at the university. Because the wager takes on the nature of a sporting event and because Ward is the quintessential "jock" obsessed with scoring, director Claude File has staged the play as a

basketball game. File, who has won awards in California and Michigan for acting and directing, explained that his interpretation is drawn from an early scene in the play which resembles a coach's "chalk talk." He seeks to involve his audience in an action that carries all the charge and urgency of an athletic event.

When the play was originally performed in New York in 1974, Clive Barnes hailed Medoff as "a dexterous and extraordinarily witty playwright. His quartet of academics is beautifully drawn." An earlier dark comedy, "When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?" won Medoff an Obie Award in 1973.

Honor, the object of the wager is played by Mary-Ellen O'Hara, a senior theatre major at USM from Rockland. O'Hara has appeared in many USM theatre productions and was assistant director to John Neville-Andrews, guest director of last season's "Comedy of Errors." She has also worked as a disc jockey on USM's WMPG radio

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## From the President:

Please join me and members of my staff on Wednesday, March 1 at 3:30 p.m. in Luther Bonney Auditorium for an update on University affairs. This has been a very busy, productive year, and I believe it would be useful to have this opportunity to review our progress.

I have asked each member of my staff to be prepared to bring you up-to-date on his/her area of responsibility—academic affairs, administration, student affairs, external relations—and I will be sharing information with you on the major agenda items for the balance of the academic year. There will, of course, be time for questions and comments.

I look forward to seeing you on the 1st.

## Celebrating Women

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Zolidis, assistant professor of geology, will speak at 11 a.m. in 313 Bailey Hall on the Gorham campus on "Women in Geology." In addition to surveying the impact of women today in the profession, she will describe the contributions of two women who pioneered in the field. Florence Bascom created and chaired the Department of Geology at Bryn Mawr and was the first woman to be recognized as a professional geologist, and Gertrude Sober pioneered in the field of mining at the turn of the century.

On Thursday, March 9 two historians will look at women activists. Eileen Eagan, assistant professor of history, will talk on "Civil Rights History and Two Invisible Women: Angela Davis and Pauli Murray" at 11 a.m. in 322 Bailey Hall, Gorham. Eagan suggests that these two activists have been left out of accounts of the history of civil rights in America because they don't fit the NAACP model. Angela Davis is a black Marxist who came under public scrutiny when she stood trial in the Soledad Brothers case in California in the late 1960s. Pauli Murray, a black feminist lawyer who was active in civil rights in the 1940s, became one of the first female Episcopal priests.

Ardis Cameron, assistant professor of New England Studies, will talk at 4 p.m. in Campus Center, Room C, on "Women, History and Representations of the Past: The Case of Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1912." Cameron will examine the "Bread and Roses Strike" that involved 30,000 people and shut mills throughout New England. Women are usually viewed by historians as peripheral in labor conflicts, Cameron says, but the women of Lawrence, though not in the union halls making speeches, networked through the neighborhoods and kept the strike from collapsing.

A highlight of the week is the speech by guest lecturer Clarice Martin, a biblical scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary and a Presbyterian minister. She will speak on "Womanist Interpretations of the New Testament: Imaginative Reconstruction for the Search of Our Mother's Gardens," at 4 p.m., Friday, March 10 in Luther Bonney Auditorium. Martin, as a black woman, has faced the challenge of identifying a role for herself within a religion which has traditionally been dominated by white males. Her lecture will examine the contributions of womanist theological reflection in interpreting the New Testament narratives. In using the term

"womanist," Martin draws on the work of Alice Walker's "In Search of Our Mother's Gardens" which offered "womanist" as a broader understanding of women and their varied conditions than feminist. Womanist implies that women are individuals not a class and reflects the belief that economic class and race affect one's experience as a woman. Martin's appearance in Maine is cosponsored by USM's Women's Studies Program and by the Maine General Theological Center.

The week of celebration also includes film presentations and culminates with the International Women's Day Dinner at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 10 in Campus Center, Rooms A, B and C.

All lectures and films are free and open to the public. For ticket and fee information for the International Women's Day Dinner, contact USM's Women's Studies office at 780-4289.

## Campus Notes

■ The World Affairs Council of Maine will present "Great Decisions '89," an eight-part lecture series underwritten by UNUM. The first lecture in the series, "Ethics in International Relations: Power and Morality," with Thomas Molnar, author and educator, will be held at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, February 27, in Temple Beth-El, 400 Deering Ave., Portland. Upcoming lectures include "International Drug Traffic: An Unwinnable War?" on Monday, March 6; and "Latin American Debt: Living on Borrowed Time?" with Ambassador Sarmiento, Consul General of Argentina, on Monday, March 13—both lectures are at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth-El. Call the World Affairs Council at 780-4551 for registration information.

■ USM's Cultural Affairs Committee will present a Japanese Film Series in conjunction with the exhibit "A TIMELY ENCOUNTER: 19th-Century Photographs of Japan," on display in the Art Gallery, Gorham. The series covers 30 years of filmmaking in Japan and includes: "Princess Yang Kwei Fei," a love story, on March 3; "Muddy River," a drama of neo-realism, on March 10; "An Autumn Afternoon," director Yasujiro Ozu's last film; and "Tampopo," an off-beat comedy, on March 24. All films will be shown on Fridays at 7 p.m. in Luther Bonney Auditorium, Portland. Admission is \$2 for general public; \$1 for USM students, faculty and staff with ID. Call Jean-Ri Cojuc, assistant professor of communication, at 780-5032, for more information.

■ USM's Department of Human Resource Development and College of Education will present a faculty/student symposium, "Are All Adult Educators Reflective Practitioners?" with Ronald M. Cervero, associate professor of adult education at the University of Georgia, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Friday, March 3, in Room 1, Payson Smith Hall, Portland. Refreshments will be served. Call 780-5383 to attend.

■ USM's Department of Biological Sciences will present "Plankton Dynamics in the Alaska Coastal Current," by Lew Incze of the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, as part of the department's 1989 Natural History Lectures, at 12:30 p.m., on Friday March 3, in 533 Science Building, Portland. The lecture is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the talk. Call 780-4260 for information.

■ USM's Visiting Artists Lecture Series will feature photographer Chris Enos at 4 p.m., on Thursday, March 9 in Hastings Lounge, Gorham. The lecture is free and open to the public.

■ The Robert R. Masterton Lectures open Monday, March 13 with a talk on "Maine's Changing Economy" by Dr. Lloyd Irland, president of The Irland Group in Augusta. The series of nine lectures, all of which are on the theme of "Changing Maine," will be held at 7 p.m., Monday evenings in Room 113 of Masterton Hall, Portland. For more information, call Public Policy and Management, sponsor of the series, at 780-4380.

## Soviet Popular Culture

Contemporary Soviet popular culture will be the topic of a lecture by Richard Stites, professor of history at Georgetown University, at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 6 in the Moody Court Room, Law School, Portland.

Stites will draw on the experience of 25 visits to the Soviet Union. His publications include "The Women's Liberation Movement in Russia: Feminism, Nihilism, and Bolshevism, 1860-1930," and "Revolutionary Dreams: Utopian Vision and Social Experiment in the Russian Revolution." The presentation, part of USM's 1988-89 Convocation, "Worlds in Flux: The Soviet Union," will include a

continued on next page



The New World String quartet, Quartet-in-Residence at Harvard University since 1984, will perform at USM at 8 p.m., on Saturday, March 4 in Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham. Curtis Macomber, violin; Vahn Armstrong, violin; Benjamin Simon, viola; and Ross Harbaugh, cello, will perform Haydn's "Quartet in G Major, Op. 76 No. 1," Bartok's "Quartet No. 4," and Brahms' "Quartet in C Minor, Op. 51 No. 1." Tickets are \$8 general public; \$6 seniors, USM faculty and staff; and \$4 USM students. The program is presented by the Cultural Affairs Committee with support from the Music Department and the Office of Student Activities. For tickets call 780-5555; for information call 780-5256.

USM in "The Crucible" and sang the lead in "The Magnolia Club." He is from Bridgton.

Director Claude File has 20 years experience as an actor, director, choreographer and playwright in more than 50 productions. Acting credits include a recent appearance in the film "Everybody's All American" with Dennis Quaid and Jessica Lange and in major TV commercials. He was nominated for "Best Supporting Actor" by the Los Angeles Drama Critics Association in 1981 and won recognition as best director in 1982 and 1983 from Michigan Public Theater as well as winning a Michigan Foundation for the Arts Award.

"The Wager" will be performed at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 10, Saturday, March 11 and Wednesday, March 15 through Saturday, March 18 and at 5 p.m. on Sundays, March 12 and March 19. Tickets are \$6 for general admission, \$5 for faculty/staff and seniors and \$3 for students. For more information, call the Box Office at 780-5483.



Jeanette C. Taylor (left), administrative associate in Facilities Management, advises Dawn A. Hansen, a SMVTI student and participant in Governor McKernan's ASPIRE program. Hansen and other ASPIRE members shadowed USM employees for a day of practical work experience. Barbara Willey, employment services specialist, and Bernadette Curtis, training/development program specialist, helped develop the job shadow program to help clerical skills students from SMVTI become better prepared for the workplace.

*Alessi photo*

sampling of Soviet pop music. It is free and open to the public.

As examples of Soviet popular culture, the Convocation Committee has arranged showings of two Soviet films. "Siberiade," will be shown from 7 to 10:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, in the Moot Court Room, Law School, Portland. A film with a vast historical background, "Siberiade" (1979) was made by Andrei Konchalovsky, an outspoken supporter of the "American model" in films, as an epic with popular appeal.

"Siberiade" intertwines history and fiction as it covers the lives of two families in a small Siberian village, from the beginning of the century through the 1960s. Major historical events are presented in documentary inserts. Besides chronicling half a century of the country's history, the film also raises questions pertaining to the eternal struggle of man against nature.

"Commissar," directed by Alexander Askoldov and released in 1988, will be shown at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, 10 Bailey Hall, Gorham. The film, banned in the Soviet Union for 20 years, explores the fate of a female commissar on duty during Russia's

1922 Civil War between the Reds and the Whites. She gains understanding for the Jewish culture when she becomes pregnant and is left behind under the care of a poor Jewish family. A repeat showing of the film is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 13, Moot Court Room, Law School, Portland.

Admission for the films is free and open to the public. The events are sponsored by the USM Convocation Committee. Contact Charlotte Rosenthal, assistant professor of Russian, at 780-4325 for more information.

## The Wager

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station. Mike Dow appears as Ward and has been seen in "The Good Doctor" and "Private Wars." Sean Casement, who plays Leeds, is in his third year in the Theatre Department and has been seen as Dromio in "The Comedy of Errors," Crow in "Tooth of Crime" and Line in "Slam." Geary Smith, one of USM's non-traditional students, plays the professor Ron. Now a sophomore, Smith appeared at



## What We're Doing

**DONALD F. ANSPACH**, associate professor of sociology and **S. HENRY MONSEN**, professor of sociology, had their article, "Determinant Sentencing, Formal Rationality, and Khadi Justice in Maine: An Application of Weber's Typology," accepted for publication in the *Journal of Criminal Justice*.

**NANCY AUSTIN**, assistant professor of education, with Marylyn Wentworth, educational consultant, and the Southern Maine Partnership received funding for Project CLIME (Creating Leaders in Mathematics Education) through an EESA-Title II grant, available for Maine post-secondary educational institutions.

**WILLARD D. CALLENDER JR.**, professor of education, offered a colloquium at the Harvard School of Education on February 8 titled, "The Feel of Education," as part of the annual seminar series offered by the Philosophy of Education Research Center.

**THOMAS R. CARPER**, associate professor of English, will have "The Tranquil Life," a poem from his new sonnet sequence, "Corot," published in *Poetry*.

**BRUCE B. CLARY**, professor of public policy and management, was the coauthor of an invited paper, "Public Testimony in Nuclear Waste Repository Hearings: A Content Analysis," which was presented at a symposium on high-level nuclear waste disposal recently held at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meetings in San Francisco. Last fall, he coauthored a paper titled, "Assessing Citizen Participation in Environmental Policy: The NIMBY Syndrome and Radioactive Waste Disposal," which was delivered at the meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington D. C. In February, Clary will be delivering a lecture to the faculty of UM-Machias on this body of research titled, "The NIMBY Response: Fact and Fiction."

**DIANA C. CRADER**, assistant professor of anthropology, and **NATHAN D. HAMILTON**, assistant professor of archaeology, coauthored a paper on "Late Archaic Faunal Remains from the Nevin Site," which was presented by Crader at the First Archaeological Congress held in Baltimore in January.

**GLORIA SHAW DUCLOS**, professor of classics, coauthored an article, "An Analysis of Candidate Performance on the Published Latin Achievement Test," that appeared in the December-January issue of *Classical Outlook*. Duclos spoke recently at Thornton Academy on "The Real Julius Caesar."

**PATT FRANKLIN**, professor of art, was in a one-person exhibition called "The Island Anatomy Series," at the Congress Square Gallery in Portland, January 20 through February 17. She recently had three paintings purchased by the L.L. Bean Corporate Collection; and the Marriott Hotel purchased a large pastel drawing.

**BHISHAM C. GUPTA**, professor of applied mathematics and director of the graduate program in statistics, gave an invited lecture, "A Survey of Search Designs for 2m Factorial Experiments" at the international R.C. Bose Symposium on Probability and Statistics held in New Delhi on December 27-30.

**MICHAEL HILLARD**, assistant professor of economics, co-presented a paper, "The 'Labor Shortage' and the Crisis in the Reproduction of the U.S. Working Class," at the Allied Social Science Association's annual meeting in New York City on December 28-30.

**H. DRAPER HUNT III**, professor of history, spoke on January 12 to the Joshua Chamberlain Civil War Round Table on "Matthew Brady and His World."

**EDWIN P. KULAWIEC**, associate professor of education, gave a presentation, "On Learning History," to the combined staffs and student bodies of the Leavitt Area High School and the Alternative School of SAD 52 on January 24.

**BRUCE B. MacLEOD**, instructor of computer science, traveled to Algiers over semester break where he gave a seminar at the Algerian National Planning Agency on using microcomputers for database and statistical analysis. He continued on to Istanbul, Turkey, where he developed a multi-user database system on a microcomputer at the Children's Hospital.

**JOSEPH E. MEDLEY**, assistant professor of Economics, co-presented a paper, "Democratic Reform of the Federal Reserve: The Impact on Class Relations and Policy Formation," at the Allied Social Science Association's annual meeting in New York City on December 28-30.

**IVAN G. MOST**, director of the Production Technology Center, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Training Resource Center in Portland.

**HAIGH H. NAJARIAN**, professor of biology, spoke on "Politics and Religion in the Middle East" at the January 20 meeting of the Portland Rotary Club.

**ANDREW J. POTTS**, professor of accounting, had an article titled "Tips from a Grader" published in the December 1988 issue of the *New Accountant*. His article, "How to Read an Insurance Company's Annual Report," is appearing in the February issue of *Broker World*.

**FRANCIS SCHWANAUER**, professor of philosophy, has been informed by the International Biographical Centre in Cambridge, England, that he will be included in the 14th edition of *Men of Achievement*.

**JAMES W. SMITH**, associate professor of applied science, had his article, "Effect of Lead Zirconate of PTC Materials," accepted for publication in the *Journal of the American Ceramic Society*.

**E. JANE WEIL**, coordinator for community and resource development with Project AIMS at the Human Services Development Institute, has been re-appointed by Governor John McKernan as chair of the Maine Advisory Committee for Children with Special Needs.



### Currents

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